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Imelda Power: Just how powerful is Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos? The CIA admits it is not sure. "She may or may not have great influence on her husband's policy decisions," a secret agency report acknowledges.

"On most policy questions, they have generally similar views, although her public positions are often more extreme," the report explains. "He occasionally finds her public pronouncements useful trial balloons, but there is no evidence that she coordinates everything she says and does in advance."

As for her not-so-secret ambition to become president if her husband dies in office, another CIA report concludes that her high hopes may outstrip the reality of political power.

"If she is ever to rule as well as reign," the report notes, "she will need the support of the military She is not well-regarded by senior officers. Their loyalty to Marcos is personal, based on his long record of political support to the armed forces when most Filipino politicians treated them with contempt. This loyalty does not extend to Mrs. Marcos."